



## City Lab High School Participates in Urban Land Institute’s First UrbanPlan National Student Competition

*Winners were awarded share of \$10,000 Prize*

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**Dallas-Fort Worth, July 1, 2020** – Local School, City Lab High School, participated last weekend in the [Urban Land Institute’s](#) (ULI) first ever [UrbanPlan](#) National Student Competition. ULI is a global, multidisciplinary real estate organization whose work is driven by more than 45,000 members dedicated to responsible land use and building thriving communities.

UrbanPlan is a realistic, engaging exercise in which participants—high school students, university students, or public officials—learn the fundamental forces that affect development in our communities. Participants experience challenging issues, private and public sector roles, complex trade-offs, and fundamental economics in play when proposing realistic land use solutions to vexing growth challenges. Generously supported by member gifts to the [ULI Foundation](#) and offered through district councils and national councils, UrbanPlan has reached nearly 60,000 students and public officials globally.

The students were tasked with redeveloping six blocks in the fictional city of Elmwood. The student’s fictional companies must balance historical preservation, dereliction, and competing neighborhood priorities, along with financial constraints to meet the needs of the city. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RFP also mandates a specific focus on creating housing to meet the needs of mixed-income groups, preserving amenities, and creating skilled, professional and entry level employment opportunities, for neighborhood and city residents. Additionally, the city asks the students to create a town square that allows for social distancing, community programming and peaceful demonstrations.

***[Through UrbanPlan,] I gained a better understanding for the moral/ economic decision making in city planning.***  
[City Lab High School Student, 2020].

Funding for this competition was generously provided through a donation to ULI’s [Annual Fund](#) from ULI Trustee Emeritus and ULI Foundation Governor Ron Nahas, partner, Rafanelli & Nahas LLP, Lafayette, California. “When UrbanPlan was created 20 years ago, no one could have imagined teams thousands of miles apart competing in real time,” said Nahas. “The new realities so abruptly forced on us by COVID-19 are driving the creative changes needed to bring the wonders of the UrbanPlan curriculum to any school anywhere throughout the world. I am excited to participate in this first National Competition and look forward to congratulating the teams for confronting the complex issues and frustrating compromises that govern the built environment.”

The competition involved 60 students comprising 12 teams from 10 high schools around the United States and Canada: Berkeley High in San Francisco, California; CityLab in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; East Brunswick High School, Brunswick, New Jersey; Iolani High School, Honolulu, Hawaii; Kalani High School, Honolulu, Hawaii; Phelps ACE, Washington, D.C.; St. Paul Central High School, St. Paul, Minnesota; Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley, California; and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**To learn more about becoming an UrbanPlan Volunteer for ULI Dallas-Fort Worth, email [Christy.Thurston@uli.org](mailto:Christy.Thurston@uli.org).**

**About the Urban Land Institute:** The [Urban Land Institute](#) is a nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the institute has more than 45,000 members worldwide representing all aspects of land use and development disciplines. For more information on ULI, please visit [uli.org](http://uli.org) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).